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Obey, Kohl, Feingold Applaud VA Decision to OPEN CBOCs In Rice Lake & Hayward

*Clinics Will Provide Veterans with Primary and Mental Health Care Closer
To Home*

WASHINGTON, D.C. â€“ Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI), Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI) and Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) today applauded the Veterans' Administration's (VA) decision to open Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) in Rice Lake
and
Hayward to provide veterans living in northwestern Wisconsin access to primary and mental health care closer to home.

“Doing what’s right for our veterans means more than waving the flag on Veterans or Memorial Day. It means ensuring that they have the respect and easy access to the care that they deserve,” said Obey, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. “That’s why we’ve pushed the VA to open a CBOC in northwestern Wisconsin for a long time and I’m glad they’re finally responding. We wouldn’t be at this point today if not for the efforts of the many local veterans and Veterans Service Officers who have been pushing for this clinic.”

“I am very pleased that the VA is moving forward with their plan to open two clinics in western Wisconsin and I’m certain this is welcome news for our soldiers who have sacrificed so much in service to our country. Veterans have earned their health benefits and should not be excluded from quality care because the nearest clinic is hours away,” said Kohl. “Our veterans deserve our words of thanks and honor, but they also deserve actions that match those words.”

“In the wake of recent reports on unacceptable conditions at Walter Reed, we must re-double our efforts to provide the best care for our veterans

and active duty troops," Feingold said. "I am very happy for all the veterans in northwestern Wisconsin who will now be able to receive the health care they deserve without having to travel hundreds of miles. While we can never fully repay our veterans for the sacrifices they have made for this country, I will continue to work to ensure our veterans receive the very best care possible."

The VA has contracted with Comprehensive Health and Wellness of Paris, Kentucky, which operates CBOCs in other VA regions, to run the two new CBOCs. Both the Rice Lake clinic, which will be open five days a week, and the Hayward clinic, which will be open two days a week, are scheduled to open their doors this June and are expected to serve approximately 1,700 patients. Both clinics will be equipped and staffed to provide primary and mental health care services, as well as telemedicine capabilities to tap into VA health expertise at other locations.

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